

MEDIA ADVISORY



United States Embassy - Nairobi, Kenya
Public Affairs Section Tel: +254-20-363-6203

Africa Regional Media Hub

United States Department of State
<http://africamediahub.state.gov>

May 2nd Briefing with Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Tara D. Sonenshine

April 30, 2013

Please join us on **Thursday, May 2nd, 2013, at 12:00 GMT/15:00 Kenya** for a telephonic press conference with the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Tara D. Sonenshine. Under Secretary Sonenshine will discuss the U.S. government's stance and efforts towards support of press freedom in Africa to mark World Press Freedom Day (WPFDD), which is May 3.

EVENT:

Please join us on **Thursday, May 2nd, 2013 at 12:00 GMT** for a telephonic press conference with the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Tara D. Sonenshine.

Media is invited to participate in the call from the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi. If you wish to participate, please contact Hilda Nakhwanga at nakhwangahm@state.gov or by phone on 0702-919-672. You must arrive at the Embassy by 14:30 to participate from the Embassy.

DETAILS:

Speaker:	Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Tara D. Sonenshine
Date:	Thursday May 2 nd , 2013
Time:	08:00 EST 12:00 GMT 13:00 W. Africa 14:00 Central/S. Africa 15:00 Kenya
Language:	English
Ground rules:	ON THE RECORD
Dial-in Info:	To be provided once you RSVP
RSVP:	Please RSVP to afmediahub@state.gov or to nakhwangahm@state.gov to participate from the Embassy.

Background

The U.S. has been involved in the “Free The Press” campaign, which focuses on addressing the many ways in which journalists are under duress around the world, including imprisonment; laws that restrict media freedom and freedom of expression on the internet; journalists who are killed or who disappear on the job; intimidation, threats and fines. Threats to journalists take many different forms, but each has the same chilling effects: limiting the news that can be safely gathered or disseminated, silencing voices of dissent, and restricting freedom of expression.

Bio:



Tara Sonenshine

Under Secretary

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Term of Appointment: 04/05/2012 to present

Tara D. Sonenshine was sworn in as Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs on April 5, 2012.

Tara was formerly Executive Vice President of the United States Institute of Peace. Prior to joining the United States Institute of Peace, she was a strategic communications adviser to many international organizations including USIP, the International Crisis Group, Internews, CARE, The American Academy of Diplomacy, and the International Women’s Media Foundation. Ms. Sonenshine served in various capacities at the White House during the Clinton Administration, including Transition Director and Director of Foreign Policy Planning for the National Security Council and Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Communications for the NSC.

Tara has had a distinguished career in communications and government, with high-level experience in broadcast, print, and online media. She has produced news programs for network television and authored numerous articles for national print and online media. She is the recipient of 10 News Emmy Awards and other awards in journalism for broadcast programs on domestic and international issues.

Tara graduated from Tufts University in 1981 Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in political science. She has remained active at Tufts on boards and advisory committees including the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service.

Her broadcast career began at ABC News in New York, working for another Tufts alumnus, David Burke, then vice president of ABC NEWS. Ms. Sonenshine went on to become editorial producer of ABC News’

Nightline, where she worked for more than a decade. She was also an off-air reporter at the Pentagon for ABC's World News Tonight. A former contributing editor for Newsweek, Sonenshine is the author of numerous articles on foreign affairs published in the New York Times, Washington Post, and other newspapers.

Her hobbies include family time, tennis, Zumba, writing about foreign policy and global women's issues.

LOGISTICS:

- We will ask that callers dial-in to the conference call **10-15 minutes early**.
- When an individual journalist dials-in, the operator will collect the caller's name, press affiliation, and location.
- When an embassy dials in, the operator will NOT ask the embassy coordinator for the names of every journalist at the participating embassy, but only the embassy's name and location.
- Under Secretary Sonenshine will give brief opening remarks.
- The moderator will facilitate the Q and A among the connected callers. Journalists on the conference call will be instructed to push the "*" and "1" buttons on their phones in order to enter the question queue. **NOTE: You can press star-one at any time during the call to join the question queue, even before the moderator begins the Q and A portion of the call.** We ask that journalists limit themselves to one question only for each time they press "star" and "1". Participants may press "star" and "1" more than once should they wish to ask more than one question.
- The moderator will then announce the location of each questioner. The questioner should state his/her name and affiliation before asking the question.
- Near the end of the allotted time, the moderator will announce the last question. At the end of the final answer, the operator will announce the conclusion of the conference call.